Asbestos related diseases

1840. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the recent finding of epidemiological study on asbestos related diseases conducted in Quebec, Canada;

(b) the total number of asbestos manufacturing units in India with State-wise figures;

(c) whether Government would undertake a study to find out the prevalence of asbestosis and mesothelioma, the dreaded diseases caused by asbestos particles in the air;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) According to Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), a book Asbestos: Selected cancers (2006) has been published by Board on Population Health and Public Health Practice, wherein one of the chapters is devoted to description of epidemiologic studies. This chapter refers to studies on Quebec Chrysotile Miners by McDonald et al1997.

(b) The State-wise number of asbestos manufacturing units in India are detailed as under:

State	No. of Units
Andhra Pradesh	3
Assam	1
Gujarat	1
Haryana	1
Jharkhand	1
Karnataka	1
Kerala	1
Madhya Pradesh	2

State	No. of Units
Maharashtra	6
Orissa	1
Punjab	1
Rajasthan	1
Tamil Nadu	4
U.P.	3
UT of Dadar & Nagar Haveli	1
West Bengal	3

(c) to (e) ICMR's National Institute of Occupational Health (NIOH), Ahmedabad, is currently engaged in the following three studies related to asbestos: (i) Study of Health Hazards/Environmental hazards resulting from use of Chrysotile variety of Asbestos in the country, (ii) Epidemiological study in ship breaking workers at Alang (Gujarat), (iii) Environmental-cum-epidemiological study in Chrysotile and tremolite milling/minning units in Pulivendla (A.P.) and Bhim (Rajasthan).

These studies have been recently initiated and results are expected to be available in the next few years.

Unit of Botanical Survey of India at Itanagar

1841. SHRI NABAM REBIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a unit of Botanical Survey of India (BSI) was established at Itanagar in Arunachal Pradesh;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Arunachal Pradesh falls under one of the global mega-diversity centres and is one of the world's bio-diversity hotspots;

(c) if so, the details of the infrastructure facilities provided or proposed to be provided to Itanagar unit of BSI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Itanagar Unit of BSI has been provided with its own office-cum